

84TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 157

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 1955

Mr. WALTER introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

To establish a Commission on Government Security.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 DECLARATION OF POLICY

4 SECTION 1. It is vital to the welfare and safety of the
5 United States that there exist at all times adequate protection
6 of the national security (including the safeguarding of all
7 national defense secrets and public and private defense in-
8 stallations) against loss or compromise arising from
9 espionage, sabotage, disloyalty, subversive activities, or
10 unauthorized disclosures.

1 It is, therefore, the policy of the Congress that there
2 shall exist a sound Government program—

12 (b) for vigorous enforcement of effective and rea-
13 listic security laws and regulations; and

¹⁸ ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION

SECURITY

20 SEC. 2. (a) For the purpose of carrying out the policy
21 set forth in the first section of this joint resolution, there is
22 hereby established a commission to be known as the Com-
23 mission on Government Security (hereinafter referred to
24 as the "Commission").

1 (b) The Commission shall be composed of 12 members
2 as follows:

3 (1) Four appointed by the President of the United
4 States, two from the executive branch of the Government,
5 and two from private life;

6 (2) Four appointed by the President of the Senate.
7 two from the Senate, and two from private life; and

8 (3) Four appointed by the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives, two from the House of Representatives, and
10 two from private life.

11 (c) Of the members appointed to the Commission not
12 more than two shall be appointed by the President of the
13 United States, or the President of the Senate, or the Speaker
14 of the House of Representatives from the same political
15 party.

16 (d) Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its
17 powers, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the
18 original appointment was made.

19 (e) Service of an individual as a member of the Com-
20 mission or employment of an individual by the Commission
21 as an attorney or expert in any business or professional field,
22 on a part-time or full-time basis, with or without compensa-
23 tion, shall not be considered as service or employment bring-
24 ing such individual within the provisions of section 281, 283,

1 284, 434, or 1914 of title 18 of the United States Code, or
2 section 190 of the Revised Statutes (5 U. S. C. 99).

3 (f) The Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Vice
4 Chairman from among its members.

5 (g) Seven members of the Commission shall constitute
6 a quorum.

7 COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

8 SEC. 3. (a) Members of the Congress who are members
9 of the Commission shall serve without compensation in addi-
10 tion to that received for their services as Members of Con-
11 gress; but they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence,
12 and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the per-
13 formance of the duties vested in the Commission.

14 (b) The members of the Commission who are in the
15 executive branch of the Government shall serve without
16 compensation in addition to that received for their services
17 in the executive branch, but they shall be reimbursed for
18 travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by
19 them in the performance of the duties vested in the Com-
20 mission.

21 (c) The members of the Commission from private life
22 shall each receive \$50 per diem when engaged in the actual
23 performance of duties vested in the Commission, plus reim-
24 bursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary ex-
25 penses incurred by them in the performance of such duties.

1 STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

2 SEC. 4. (a) (1) The Commission shall have power to
3 appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as it
4 deems advisable, without regard to the provisions of the
5 civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, as
6 amended.

7 (2) The Commission may procure, without regard to
8 the civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1949,
9 temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as
10 is authorized for the departments by section 15 of the Act
11 of August 2, 1946 (60 Stat. 810), but at rates not to
12 exceed \$50 per diem for individuals.

13 (b) All employees of the Commission shall be investi-
14 gated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as to character,
15 associations, and loyalty, and a report of each such investi-
16 gation shall be furnished to the Commission.

17 EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION

18 SEC. 5. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated,
19 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
20 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
21 of this joint resolution.

22 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

23 SEC. 6. The Commission shall study and investigate the
24 entire Government security program, including the various

1 statutes, Presidential orders, and administrative regulations
2 and directives under which the Government seeks to protect
3 the national security, national defense secrets, and public
4 and private defense installations, against loss or injury arising
5 from espionage, disloyalty, subversive activity, sabotage, or
6 unauthorized disclosure, together with the actual manner in
7 which such statutes, Presidential orders, administrative regu-
8 lations, and directives have been and are being administered
9 and implemented, with a view to determining whether exist-
10 ing requirements, practices, and procedures are in accordance
11 with the policies set forth in the first section of this joint
12 resolution, and to recommending such changes as it may
13 determine are necessary or desirable. The Commission shall
14 also consider and submit reports and recommendations on the
15 adequacy or deficiencies of existing statutes, Presidential
16 orders, administrative regulations, and directives, and the
17 administration of such statutes, orders, regulations, and direc-
18 tives, from the standpoints of internal consistency of the over-
19 all security program and effective protection and maintenance
20 of the national security.

POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

22 SEC. 7. (a) The Commission or, on the authorization of
23 the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may,
24 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this joint
25 resolution, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times

1 and places, administer such oaths, and require, by subpena or
2 otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses
3 and the production of such books, records, correspondence,
4 memoranda, papers, and documents as the Commission or
5 such subcommittee or member may deem advisable. Sub-
6 pena may be issued under the signature of the Chairman of
7 the Commission or such subcommittee, or any duly designated
8 member, and may be served by any person designated by
9 such Chairman or member. The provisions of sections 102
10 to 104, inclusive, of the Revised Statutes (U. S. C., title 2,
11 secs. 192-194), shall apply in the case of any failure of any
12 witness to comply with any subpena or to testify when sum-
13 moned under authority of this section.

14 (b) The Commission is authorized to secure directly
15 from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, com-
16 mission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality
17 information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the
18 purposes of this joint resolution, and each such department,
19 bureau, agency, board, commission, office, establishment, or
20 instrumentality is authorized and directed to furnish such
21 information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to
22 the Commission, upon request made by the Chairman or
23 Vice Chairman.

1 INTERFERENCE WITH CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS
2 AND INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS

3 SEC. 8. Nothing contained in this joint resolution shall
4 be construed to require any agency of the United States to
5 release any information possessed by it when, in the opinion
6 of the President, the premature disclosure of such informa-
7 tion would jeopardize or interfere with a pending or prospec-
8 tive criminal prosecution, or with the carrying out of the in-
9 telligence responsibilities of such agency.

10 REPORTS

11 SEC. 9. The Commission shall submit interim reports to
12 the Congress and the President at such time or times as it
13 deems advisable, and shall submit its final report to the Con-
14 gress and the President not later than January 15, 1956.
15 The final report of the Commission may propose such legis-
16 lative enactments and administrative actions as in its judg-
17 ment are necessary to carry out its recommendations. The
18 Commission shall cease to exist ninety days after submis-
19 sion of its final report.

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